From: The Icewalker

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/23/02 10:31am

Subject: Microsoft Complaints

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm not even sure where to begin. I'm definitely writing to you because I don't feel that the back out of the Department of Justice was the best thing to do concerning the Microsoft Antitrust Case. To reach a settlement with a giant is only to invite more trouble. The government has settled before on infractions and "here we are again, back in court, again."

How have I been hurt by Microsoft's dominance?

Let's see, I definitely feel that my "FREEDOM" to do with my own computer what I wish has been compromised by Microsoft and Windows. I've seen product updates change my personal preferences. I'm sorry, but I don't feel like opening my JPG's in Internet Explorer or MS Photo Editor. If I want to use PhotoShop, then those preferences should stay there, not be hijacked by the OS! I know it's petty, but it's also annoying multiplied by millions. It's also unfair to those other companies that have spent the time, asked the user, and are now out of the loop. Yeah Yeah, I can go change them back, but I shouldn't have to do that over and over and over again all becuase I'm now required to Install the latest version of Internet Explorer so I can use my latest Word Processor. Since when were the two required to need each other? They have separate functions and shouldn't require each other!

Secondly, I'm tired of not having the choice of some other OS or no OS at all when I buy a computer. Let's see, there is Dell, Gateway, Compaq, HP, IBM. Try to buy a home computer without Windows and some other MS Word Processing Package. It's dang near impossible. And when I ask, I get the story, "We can't ship a system without an OS." Well that's crap. It costs money to put the OS on, you'd think they would love to be able not to do that. I've decided to build my own. More people should learn to do it so they wouldn't be so ignorant and blind.

Linux is an alternative. How do I know. I've built my own computer, and I've installed Linux. Hmmmmm...I have a nice system for a whole lot less money and I got what I WANT! Not what some operating system company wanted for me. It's about Choice and as long as a predator is allowed to prey on the masses, there is no choice.

It's time to put the sleeping giant to bed an allow the people of this country a little bit more freedom of choice. Afterall, if all software comes from Microsoft, that is a bad thing.....the "all your eggs in one basket" mentality if you ask me!

I pray that somebody in the government wakes up, stop accepting donations, and does what they were elected by the people to do, to serve the people, not the corporate interest!

I'm now done with my soapbox lecture!

Sincerely Yours,

James Bruce Informatics Manager and Linux Advocate Charleston SC